

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-18 and 22 now stand in the application, claims 2 and 19-21 having been canceled and new claim 22 added. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 21 has been canceled to render moot the drawing objection stated at page 2 of the Office action.

The specification has been amended to address the inconsistent naming referred to by the examiner at pages 2-3 of the Office action.

The prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Tziviskos provides a connector for connecting a hook to a BTE device. The system is mainly intended for connecting an electric cable for use in a cochlear implant system. There is an embodiment, shown in Fig. 2B, with a receiver placed in the hook. Although this has been referred to as a conventional hearing aid, it is different from the hearing aid of the present application, which has the receiver in the BTE housing, and where the connector establishes a sound conduit leading to the hook.

Amended claim 1 distinguishes over Tziviskos, specifically through the recitation of the attachment means defining a sound conduit and the recitation of the first part having means for interlocking with the hearing aid housing in an assembled state thereof.

Amended claim 8 distinguishes over Tziviskos, specifically through the recitation of the attachment means defining a sound conduit and the recitation of the attachment means having means for interlocking with the hearing aid housing in an assembled state thereof.

Amended claim 12 distinguishes over Tziviskos, specifically through the recitation of the attachment means comprising an interchangeable part, the second part protruding from said

hearing aid housing through an aperture in said housing wall, and said interchangeable part having a bore.

The other claims by their respective dependencies inherit the limitations of respective ones of the independent claims.

For the above reasons, none of the claims are anticipated by Tsiviskos.

In his obviousness rejections, the examiner additionally relies on U.S. Patent No. 3,813,499 to Vignini. Vignini provides a hearing aid nozzle with resilient bayonet lock. The hearing aid body 10 (the BTE housing) has a transition piece 20 (the hook). The transition piece ends in the nipple 26, which serves for securing a plastic tube. The body has nozzle 11 with lugs and with a tubular passageway. The transition piece is slipped over the nozzle and rotated through 90 degrees for locking.

Claim 1 as now amended distinguishes over the combination of Tziviskos and Vignini by the recitation of the attachment means being adapted to be located partially in the hearing aid housing wall, so as to have a first part located in said hearing aid housing wall, said first part having means for interlocking with the hearing aid housing in an assembled state thereof. Claims 5-7 by their dependencies inherit these limitations.

Amended claim 12 distinguishes over the applied art, specifically through the recitation of the attachment means comprising an interchangeable part, the second part protruding from said hearing aid housing through an aperture in said housing wall. Claims 15-18 by their dependencies inherit these limitations.

New claim 22 is directed to a hearing aid and is patterned after claim 1 and distinguishes over the prior art for the same reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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